

Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #20
August 14, 2006

WORLDWIDE UPDATE:

- The World Health Organization added four cases, all of which were fatal, to its cumulative count of human influenza A/H5N1 cases this week. This brings the total case count to 232, including 134 deaths (57.8%). The new cases included two unrelated teenagers in Indonesia who became sick and died. One had contact with sick and dying chickens in his household, and the chickens tested positive for H5 influenza. The other also had exposure in the home and neighborhood to pigeons and poultry. The birds are being tested. Thailand also reported an additional case this week, in a young adult who had sick and dying chickens in his household.
- China retrospectively confirmed a case of H5N1 influenza that dated back to November 2003. The person was thought to have had SARS at the time of his death, but tests now confirm the avian influenza. History of exposure to poultry is unknown. This is now the first confirmed human case of the outbreak. Before this case, the outbreak among humans was thought to have first occurred in Vietnam in December 2003, and China's first case was thought to have occurred in November 2005.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- Next Pandemic Flu Advisory Group meeting will be held on September 18 at the Crowne Plaza West on Broad Street just east of I-64 at Glenside.
- VDH will conduct an Internal Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise on August 17. This exercise will concentrate on health-centric issues and will assist in refining preparations for the October 23-25 Statewide Pandemic Influenza Functional Exercise.
- Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) and State Emergency Planning Coordinator met with Virginia Municipal League (VML) and Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Representatives to firm plans on developing PanFlu / COOP programs aimed at Local Officials at upcoming meeting opportunities.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator met with Northrup-Grumman Representatives to discuss PanFlu COOP considerations.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Near SW Region	August 22
Hampton Roads	August 22
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Central Region**
 - The Central Region EP&R Team participated in the Richmond MMRS Pandemic Influenza Seminar and Exercise. The exercise, which was a combined tabletop and functional exercise, involved responders from organizations and agencies throughout the Central Region, including 17 Hospitals, 6 Health Districts, 5 jurisdictions of the Richmond Metropolitan area, the Regional Healthcare Coordination Center, the American Red Cross, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and the Richmond Metropolitan Medical Response System.
- **Eastern Region**
 - Regional Team participated in the Three Rivers Pandemic Influenza Summit.
 - Regional Epidemiologist, Regional PIO, Regional Medical Consultant, and Regional Trainer participated in the Eastern Shore Pandemic Influenza Summit.
 - Regional Medical Consultant participated in the Virginia Beach Pandemic Influenza Summit.
 - Regional Medical Consultant and Virginia Beach Health Director gave Medical Grand Rounds on Pandemic Influenza at Sentara Bayside Hospital.
 - Regional PIO participated in a national pandemic influenza conference call with CDC, HHS, and NPHIC.
 - Regional Medical Consultant and Norfolk Health Director gave Medical Grand Rounds on Disaster Preparedness and Pandemic Influenza at Children's Hospital (CHKD).
 - Regional Medical Consultant participated in Sentara Healthcare Pandemic Influenza Planning Meeting.
 - Regional Team is planning the Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit scheduled for August 22.
- **Northern Region**
 - Regional team members participated in Loudoun Pan Flu Summit.
 - Protocol for Washington Quarantine Station to request state quarantine orders is complete and ready for testing. Will demonstrate capability of serving quarantine orders to 300 arriving passengers during October exercise.
- **Northwest Region**
 - The Central Region medical consultant presented an update on Pandemic Influenza preparedness planning to a meeting of the VDEM Region 2 State Agency Regional Team...

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report

- **Central Virginia**
 - Director has scheduled three community pan flu information sessions for September as part of an ongoing community lecture series.
 - Planner met with the Lynchburg City Schools facilities manager, a representative of the Lynchburg PD, the Lynchburg Emergency Manager and a representative from DSS to develop plans for the vaccine dispensing drill in October. Space has been reserved at EC Glass High School, the PD will participate in security and crowd control, DSS will be identifying special needs/high risk populations who may benefit from the administration of free seasonal influenza vaccine.
 - Planner and Director have met with local Emergency Managers and the PIOs from each jurisdiction to develop plans for a single information center in the event of a PH

- emergency. A second meeting was held this week. The information center will be located at the Lynchburg Fire Training Center and will be staffed by city and county information officers and health department staff. A follow up meeting is scheduled.
- Health district staff now routinely includes pan flu planning information in any of their community outreach and education efforts, regardless of the primary subject matter.
 - **Chesterfield**
 - Health Educator presented on PanFlu at a local family practice.
 - Emergency Management discussed PanFlu and COOP at their meeting.
 - Workgroup met to discuss PanFlu 1 and PanFlu 2 funding.
 - Health Educator presented on PanFlu at 3 long term care facilities/ retirement communities.
 - **Cumberland Plateau**
 - District Director, Epidemiologist, and Planner conducted a Buchanan County stakeholder meeting with 18 attendees representing first responders, government officials, a funeral director, American Red Cross, and law enforcement to discuss the development of local county pandemic influenza plan with an emphasis on local concerns and local community preparedness.
 - Epidemiologist and Planner conducted a Tazewell County stakeholder meeting with 14 attendees representing first responders, government officials, schools, and law enforcement to discuss the development of local county pandemic influenza plan with an emphasis on local concerns and local community preparedness.
 - Planner met with a local financial institution to provide pandemic influenza information and references, assisted with initiation of pandemic influenza preparedness plan, and to discuss the development of a local district pandemic influenza plan that will include local business preparedness considerations.
 - Planner met with a local law enforcement agency to discuss the development of a local pandemic influenza plan.
 - Planner facilitated planning efforts for local county pandemic influenza meetings in Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell counties.
 - District Director, Epidemiologist, and Planner drafted, completed, and submitted work plans and budget for phase 2 pandemic influenza grant funding.
 - Epidemiologists in Lenowisco and Cumberland Plateau jointly developed employee work profile for a program support specialist in phase 2 pandemic influenza grant funding.
 - **Fairfax**
 - Formulated policy for use of masks (N95 and surgical) for County agencies during a pandemic.
 - Developed budget for Phase 2 funding and strategic plan to address gaps in PanFlu preparedness.
 - Fairfax County completed a brochure to be distributed to the general public on its Pandemic Influenza Response Plan.(SEE ATTACHED)
 - Agency continuity of operations workgroup met to identify critical services and review existing COOP plan to ensure that complexities of a pandemic situation are addressed.
 - Under the direction of the Health Director, a committee of Human Services agencies has been created to plan for faith-based community pandemic flu summit scheduled for December 1st, 2006.

- In collaboration with the Medical Society, Inova Hospital Systems and Physician Community, the Health Department will be hosting a Physician summit on August 10th. A link to the invite is provided below.

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/physician_summit_invite.pdf

- **Henrico**

- Director, Planner, and Epidemiologist participated in the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) regional pandemic influenza exercise with partners from local governments and hospitals in the Greater Richmond Area.
- District hosted the second ESF-8: Health and Medical advisory group meeting with community partners.
- Director provided a presentation to the Henrico Department of Social Services on emergency preparedness for pandemic influenza, with a focus on individual and family preparedness, as well as agency level preparedness activities.
- Planner and Epidemiologist developed a draft plan for the Henrico Epidemiology Response Team (ERT).
- Epidemiologist sent Avian Flu update to community partners.
- Director and Planner began development of an on-line, interactive collaboration tool to enhance local planning efforts.

- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**

- Director, in her annual meeting with the second year Residents of the Shenandoah Valley Family Practice Residency Program, included information on evaluating suspected avian influenza in humans, reportable disease legal requirements and recommendations for practitioners, and other ways to improve the communication and understanding between public health and primary care physicians and residents.

- **Mount Rogers**

- Pandemic Influenza presentation given by district planner for members of Sugar Grove Life Saving Crew and Sugar Grove Fire Department. Approx 20 attendees.
- Pandemic Influenza presentation given by planner to 7 school nurses in Bristol.
- VDH Pandemic Influenza checklists, DVD and general information was given to each public school in the district, a total of 64 schools.
- VDH Pandemic Influenza checklists, DVD and general information given to both 4 year colleges (Virginia Intermont and Emory & Henry).
- Planner made contact with local offices of FBI, DEA, and ATF to provide Pandemic Influenza DVD and general information.
- Pandemic Influenza presentation given by district planner to Bristol Cares (a preparedness group in Bristol whose members include representatives of community, Church leaders, Health Department, local government, various agencies from both Bristol TN and Bristol Virginia).
- 53 SW Medical Reserve Corp volunteers attended the Mountain Empire Flu Summit held in Abingdon on July 20.

- **New River**

- Continues to assist area hospitals' emergency preparedness committees with Pandemic Flu preparedness planning.
- Continuing dialogue with the school systems' superintendents and coordinating/scheduling workshops for permanent/substitute staff.
- Met with VA Tech College of Veterinarian Sciences representative biosecurity / Avian Flu.
- Met with Department of Corrections' Pulaski County Correctional Center.

- Presented Pandemic Flu information to the annual DEQ-Waste Water Treatment Plant Operators Short Course.
- In the final stages of preparing for Pandemic Flu Summit at VA Tech.
- **Norfolk**
 - Director and nurse manager met with the Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) Pandemic Influenza Task Force to review issues of concern and set priorities for the NPS work plan. Identifying areas where waivers of state or federal program requirements may need to be set under declared public health emergencies was a high priority for COOP planning. Coordination of public awareness and notifications will be maintained between NPS, Norfolk Public Health and the City of Norfolk emergency managers.
 - Director, an emergency manager, and Pam Wakefield of the Southeastern Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross presented on Pandemic Influenza to the Norfolk Baptist Association. The religious columnist for the Virginian Pilot attended the presentation and wrote an article for August 4th edition.
 - District is working with the Southeastern Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross on an initiative which would offer caregiver training for pandemic influenza to the community through a train the trainer program. This would increase the home caregivers' capability to provide family and community care, and can be offered through community and advocacy groups.
- **Piedmont**
 - Planner provided a PanFlu presentation at a town meeting in Victoria.
 - Epidemiologist attended a 2 day ArcGIS training class which will allow mapping of disease trends and movement.
 - Nurses attended the Open House for Prince Edward Schools and provided literature on family preparedness.
 - Director initiated discussions with Amelia County Schools regarding the development of their PanFlu plan.
 - Director is on the agenda to speak with the medical staff of Southside Community Hospital on PanFlu infection control recommendations.
 - Epidemiologist is assembling lists of community groups in need of PanFlu education.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Unique, Inc. Employee Information Fair: Epidemiologist set up a table and handed out information to the employees about emergency preparedness and pandemic influenza.
 - Completed developing presentations for the Pittsylvania County School Nurses and for the W.W. Moore Juvenile Detention Center employees.
- **Richmond City**
 - The district Pandemic Influenza plan being updated with the proposed changes and will be redistributed for second round reviews.
 - Planner in process updating the RCHD All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan to prepare for a comprehensive response should any events occur.
 - Planner presented MRC Orientation to community group with great response, many other community groups starting to come onboard.
 - Development of POD Training 60% complete, looking at putting it online to increase the audience we will be able to reach. (Includes: MRC Volunteers and all Local Health Staff.
 - Development of Exercise Planning Team in progress. (Members will be identified soon.)

- In process of developing training for District staff with a pandemic influenza awareness session – 25% complete.
- Planner set date to present the Terrorism Security Awareness Orientation for all staff. (Scheduled second week in September)
- 52% of all health staff have now completed both ICS 100 & 200 courses.
- Working on updated Dispensing Plan for District. (Distributed to key staff for review).
- Working on Communications Plan (Updating and revising call tree information)
- Completed Budget and Work Plan for FY 07.
- Planner will be attending GIS Training Aug 10 & 11.
- A plan being developed for Oct. Exercise – Mass Vaccination, planning committee meets August 21.